Message Text

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INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 CAB-02 CIAE-00 COME-00 DODE-00 DOTE-00 INR-07 NSAE-00 EPG-02 FAA-00 L-03 SS-15 NSC-05 /054 W

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R 131435Z JUL 77 FM AMEMBASSY ROME TO SECSTATE WASH DC 5853

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E.O. 11652: N/A TAGS: EAIR, IT

SUBJECT: CIVAIR-DISCRIMINATION AT ROME AIRPORT

REF: (A) STATE 147079: (B) STATE 155805: (C) STATE 116539

1. EMBASSY SENT NOTE TO MFA ON JULY 6 USING TEXT AS INSTRUCTED REF A WITH ONE EXCEPTION. EMBASSY INSERTED WORDS "THE RIGHT" BETWEEN THE WORDS "ONCE MORE" AND "TO CONTROL" IN LAST SENTENCE OF PARA 1, REF.A. THIS CAHNGE MADE ON BASIS REF B AND U.S. AIRLINE OFFICIAL'S STATEMENT THAT U.S. AIRLINES DO NOT WANT TO REASSUME CERTAIN GROUOND HANDLING SERVICES EVEN IN EXTREMELY UNLIKELY EVENT ITALIAN AUTHORITIES MIGHT AGREE TO IT. HE STRESSED AIRLINES WANT THEIR RIGHT TO CONTROL SUCH SERVICES RECOGNIZED IN THE HOPE OF BARGAINING FOR BETTER SERVICE AT REASONABLE COST.

2. EMBASSY WILL FOLLOW UP ONNOTE AS SOON AS AUTHORITIES HAVE HAD CHANCE TO DIGEST IT.

3.IN ACCORDANCE PARA 4, REF C, EMBASSY HAS REQUESTED IN WRITING FROM DGCA COLLINI JUSTIFICATION FOR ECENT INCREASE IN GROUND HANDLING FEES AND STRONGLY SUGGESTED THAT FOREIGN AIRLINES BE CONSULTED BEFORE ANY FURTHER LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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INCREASES IMPOSED IN FUTURE. EMBOFF FOLLOWED UP WITH DI MUCCIO (MFA) BY PROVIDING HIM WITH A COPY OF LETTER AND AGAIN STRESSING IMPORTANCE OF PRIOR CONSULTATION. DI MUCCIO, HOWEVER, DID NOT RESPOND. EMBASSY WILL FOLLOW UP WITH DGCA COLLINI AT FIRST OPPORTUNITY.

4. AT MEETING BETWEEN AIRLINES SERVING ROME, CIVILAVIA AND SOCIETA' AEROPORTI DI ROME (SAR) ON JULY 11, FABRIZIO SERENA, ALITALIA OPERATIONS MANAGER STATED, ACCORDING TO AIRLINESOURCE, THAT MANY AIRLINES COMING TO BELIEVE THAT SAR CHARGES ARE INFLATED AND CAUSING ECONOMIC INEFFICIENCIES.HE COMPLAINED THAT ALITALIA DID NOT WANT ITS ECONOMIC PERFORMANCE TO CRITICIZED IN PARLIAMENT OR ELSEWHERE BECAUSE OF UNJUSTIFIED COSTS IMPOSED ON IT BY SAR. (ALITALIA DEPENDS ON SAR FOR PART OF ITS FREIGHT HANDLING). HE ARGUED STRONGLY FOR REDUCTION OF PORTERAGE AND WAREHOUSING FEES (WHICH BECAME EFFECTIVE ON JUNE 22) AND STATED BEFORE THE REPRESENTATIVES OF ABOUT 40 AIRLINES THAT IF AUTHORITIES DO NOT PROVIDE RELIEF TO AIRLINES ALITALIA WILL ALIGN ITS FREIGHT BILLINGS TO LEVELS OTHER AIRLINES MUST CHARGE. EMBASSY SENDING FURTHER LETTER TO COLLINI ON THE NEW PORTERAGE AND WAREHOUSING FEES IN EFFORT TO HELP GET FEES REDUCED AND DISCRIMINATORY ELEMENT REMOVED.GARDNER

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Message Attributes

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